JONATHAN HICKMAN • ESAD RIBIC • IVE SVORCINA

SECRET WARS

#7 OF 9

MARVEL

AR

THE PROPHET EMERGED FROM THE GREAT WASTE--APPEARING FROM NOTHING.

A CAUSE FULLY FORMED. AN IDEA GIVEN SHAPE:

THIS DOOM IS NO GOD.

AND IF HE IS NO GOD, THEN WHY SUFFER UNDER HIS HAND? WHY SUBMIT TO HIS RULE?

THE PROPHET'S WORDS WERE FIRE.

HE SPOKE OF LIBERTY, AND THE PEOPLE PULLED DOWN THEIR IDOLS.

HE SHOUTED FREEDOM, AND THE PEOPLE RAISED UP ARMS.

HE MARCHED HIS ARMY TO CASTLE DOOM TO CAST OUT *GOD HIMSELF.*

IT WAS PROVIDENCE PROVIDING THE PERFECT MAN AT THE PERFECT TIME. BUT WHO IS THIS GREAT CATALYST?

WHO IS THIS PROPHET?

IT'S ME, YOU IDIOTS.

MAXIMUS!

"YOU FOLLOWED ME HERE TO CERTAIN *DOOM.*

"TO THE VERY END OF ALL THAT IS. AND IT'S GOING TO BE *SO... MUCH...FUN.*"

SECRET WARS

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THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED.

•

TWO LIFE RAFTS ESCAPED THE FINAL COLLISION OF EARTH-616 AND EARTH-1610, CARRYING HEROES AND VILLAINS FROM BOTH REALITIES.

•

THE SURVIVORS AWAKENED ON BATTLEWORLD, A PLANET COMPOSED OF THE FRAGMENTS OF WORLDS THAT NO LONGER EXIST AND MAINTAINED BY THE IRON WILL OF ITS GOD AND MASTER, VICTOR VON DOOM – AND THE MOLECULE MAN, SECRETLY WIELDING THE STOLEN POWER OF THE BEYONDERS.

•

SHERIFF STRANGE SCATTERED THE SURVIVORS ACROSS BATTLEWORLD TO SAVE THEM FROM DOOM, A BETRAYAL WHICH COST HIM HIS LIFE.

•

NOW DOOM'S ENEMIES ARE EVERYWHERE: THOR INFILTRATED DOOM'S MOST FAITHFUL, REED RICHARDS PLOTTED WITH HIS ULTIMATE UNIVERSE COUNTERPART TO BRING DOWN HIS NEMESIS, AND THANOS CONVINCED A MASSIVE BEN GRIMM TO TEAR DOWN THE SHIELD AND TURN ON DOOM...

07

KING OF THE DEAD

CAST

BATTLEWORLD

GOD EMPEROR DOOM, RULER OF BATTLEWORLD

OWEN REECE, THE MOLECULE MAN

SUSAN STORM, ROYAL CONSORT

VALERIA, HEAD OF THE FOUNDATION

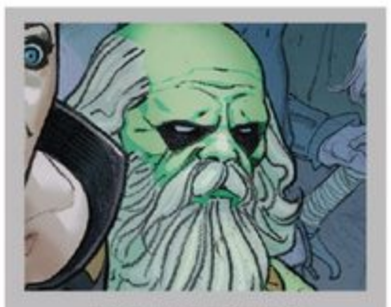
STEPHEN STRANGE, SHERIFF OF AGAMOTTO

DOOM'S GENERALS

SINISTER

THE GOBLIN QUEEN

APOCALYPSE


THE MAESTRO

THORS

ENFORCERS OF DOOM'S JUSTICE

SURVIVORS OF THE FINAL INCURSION

THE LIFE RAFT

MR. FANTASTIC

BLACK PANTHER

CAPTAIN MARVEL

STAR-LORD

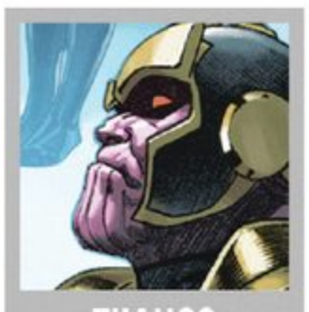
CYCLOPS/PHOENIX

SPIDER-MAN-616

SPIDER-MAN-1610

THOR

THE CABAL


THANOS

BLACK SWAN

TERRAX

NAMOR

PROXIMA MIDNIGHT

MAXIMUS

CORVUS GLAIVE

THE MAKER

THE ARMIES OF YOUR KINGDOMS GATHER TO REPEL THE ARMY OF THE PROPHET, MY LORD.

IF YOU WANT--IF YOU WISH IT--I WILL HURRY NOW TO JOIN YOUR LOYALISTS.

NO, SWAN...

AS, LIKE MYSELF, I FEAR THAT ONCE AMONG THOSE WHO TAKE MY GRACE FOR GRANTED, YOU WOULD LOSE YOURSELF TO ANGER.

SO WE WILL WATCH FROM HERE...

...AS I SIT IN JUDGMENT OF THOSE WHO DARE STAND AGAINST ME.

NO NEED TO TAKE IT PERSONALLY, VICTOR. IT'S WHAT FREE PEOPLE ALWAYS DO WHEN FACED WITH AUTHORITY. YOU CAN'T FIGHT HOW THINGS ARE, MY LOVE.

I'M CONFIDENT THIS WILL END NO DIFFERENTLY THAN ALL THE OTHER TIMES.

YOU'RE WRONG, MOM. THIS FEELS DIFFERENT.

THIS IS *SOMETHING MORE.*

YES.

SUMMON MY THORS.

FIGHT UNTIL YOU FALL! BELIEVE IN ME! I AM THE TRUE PROPHET OF THESE... THE LAST DAYS!

THERE'S NO ESCAPING WHAT'S COMING!

YOU HAVE TO EMBRACE THE END!

EMBRACE IT!

AARGGHHH!

THE ARMY OF THE PROPHET IS BREAKING. WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.

WELL, DON'T *TEASE* ME, SISTER...

IF YOU WANNA CAUSE A *RIOT*, SOMEONE NEEDS TO GIVE SOMEBODY *SINISTER* SOME KIND OF *ORDER*.

ALL RIGHT. YOU'VE GOT IT.

TELL YOUR CLONES WE'RE *SWITCHING SIDES*...

"...TIME TO TURN ON THE GOBLIN QUEEN'S ARMY."

BOOOMM

BARONESS! LOOK!

THE ARMY OF SINISTER!

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?

WHAM

THIS?

THIS IS ABOUT BETRAYAL.

YOU... YOU'VE *ALWAYS* HAD THE HEART OF A TRAITOR, SINISTER.

BUT WHY BETRAY US *NOW?*

OH, COME NOW, BARONESS...I DON'T HAVE A HEART AT ALL!

AS FOR WHY WE ATTACKED YOU, ***BETRAYAL*** IS THE GOOD CAPTAIN MARVEL'S SCHTICK... I HAVE ***MUCH BETTER REASONS...***

LIKE I JUST...

CAN'T... STAND

THAT

TACKY OUTFIT

YOU'RE

WEARING!

CRACK

FEEL BETTER?

YOU HAVE NO IDEA.

AAAAAA

OBVIOUSLY, *SOMEONE* DOESN'T APPRECIATE GOOD TASTE...

HURK!

BARON...

...APOCALYPSE WOULD LIKE A WORD.

ZZAK

THE FIELD OF WAR. A PLACE OF TRUE TESTING...

IT IS GOOD TO BE HERE AGAIN. TO EXALT THE FIT, TO PULL DOWN THE WEAK.

YOU'VE LOST YOUR HEAD ONCE AGAIN, SINISTER.

ZZAK

ZZAK

AS *YOU* HAVE LOST ALL SENSE OF DECORUM, BARON. TARDINESS--AS RUDE AS IT IS PETULANT...

...THOUGH IT SEEMS YOU ARE NOT THE *ONLY* LATE ARRIVAL.

HMM?

LOOK...

"...THE WORTHY."

DOOMGARD.
CITADEL OF THE THORS.

CHECK IT OUT.

THE THORS HAVE ARRIVED.

DOOMGARD IS HERE, VICTOR...

...BUT WHERE IS YOUR HOST?

THE GREAT HALL.

SSSSHE LIESSSSSS.

NO! THE NEWCOMER SPEAKS THE TRUTH ABOUT ALL-FATHER DOOM.

"IT'S THE TRUTH...

"...AND IT'S TORN US ASUNDER!"

BOFF

RRAAARRR!

KA-KLANG

CAN YOU RISE?

I'LL DO MORE THAN THAT.

I AND SOME OTHERS WILL STAY AND HOLD THE HALL, WHILE YOU TAKE THE REST AND JOIN THE BATTLE BELOW.

WE WORTHY OUTNUMBER DOOM'S FAITHFUL.

AS IT SHOULD BE...

AS IT SHOULD BE...

BROTHERS! SISTERS! YOU KNOW IN YOUR HEARTS THAT MY WORDS ARE TRUE!

YOU HAVE BEEN DECEIVED. GOD DOOM IS NOT GREAT...HE IS NOT EVEN GOOD!

SO WHO WILL COME WITH ME AND DO BATTLE?

"WHO WILL COME WITH ME...

"...SO THAT WE MIGHT SMITE GOD?"

WELL... THAT'S NOT RIGHT...

THE THORS ARE ATTACKING THE BARONS DEFENDING THE CASTLE!

WHY WOULD THEY DO THAT, VICTOR?

I AM BETRAYED.

AGAIN.

TIME OUT JUST LOOK HOW FAR I'VE FALLEN...

UNTIL NOW, I'VE BEEN A LOYAL SERVENT, *OF A SORT.* I'VE HAD MY MOMENTS--WE HAVE...SOME WERE GREATER THAN OTHERS, SURE, BUT ADD THEM ALL TOGETHER AND ONE COULD MAKE A CASE FOR LENIENCE.

SO WHAT DO YOU SAY, APOCALYPSE? A BARON'S PARDON FOR A FELLOW BARON?

SSQQQUUEEEEEE!

YOU DARE ASK ME FOR MERCY?

IF I, APOCALYPSE, MUST BOW BEFORE GOD DOOM, THEN THERE WILL BE NO QUARTER GIVEN TO TRAITORS SUCH AS YOU...

...OR ANY OF THE ONCE-WORTHY.

YOU CAN FALL NO FURTHER, SINISTER.

?

YOUR CONDITION CAN GET NO WORSE.

OH...

"...I THINK IT CAN."

"FOR THE MAESTRO IS HERE."

WORLDBREAKERS...

GO!

"BREAK THE WORLD."

SMASH!

SMASH!

SMASH!

PROJECT 42.

Witness, Richards...a sweet symphony...

...orchestrated by me to perfection-- Maximus and his army have engaged the forces of Doom.

With one hand we distract them, while with the other...

...WE SLIP A SMALL TEAM--US-- PAST THEM TO STEAL THE MOST VALUABLE THING THAT'S LEFT OF THE MULTIVERSE.

ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN PILOT US IN THERE UNDETECTED, STAR-LORD?

ABSOLUTELY.

PROBABLY.

THERE'S A DECENT CHANCE.

Then all we need is for the battle to last long enough to obscure our arrival and departure.

Call me a pessimist, but I don't think the frothy mob of Maximus is going to take us the distance.

Time for revelations, Reed...

Unleash those *secret plans* of yours.

ACTUALLY, THEY'RE NOT *MY* PLANS AT ALL.

BE-DOOP

CAN YOU HEAR ME, T'CHALLA?

LOUD AND CLEAR, REED. LIKE YOU'RE STANDING RIGHT HERE BESIDE ME.

IT'S STARTED?

YES. WE'RE PREPARING TO LEAVE NOW. ARE YOU READY?

ALMOST.

I WANTED TO WAIT UNTIL THE LAST POSSIBLE MINUTE. THIS ISN'T REALLY SOMETHING YOU CAN PUT BACK IN THE BOX.

WELL, GOOD LUCK.

YOU TOO, REED.

LISTEN, T'CHALLA, IF THIS DOESN'T WORK... IF WE *FAIL*, THEN THAT WILL MEAN THIS IS THE END, AND...

AND...

AND THEN I WILL SEE YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE, MY FRIEND.

TRUST ME. DEATH IS JUST A DIFFERENT KIND OF JOURNEY...

...TO THE LAND THAT I AM KING OF.

UNTIL THEN, REED.

GOOD LUCK.

BE-DOOP

YOU KNOW, JUST THEN...

...I NEARLY STARTED CRYING.

THERE WERE ALMOST ACTUAL TEARS.

THE SHIELD.

STAY WITH THE COURAGEOUS.

I'M GOING DOWN.

HMM. IT WASN'T LIKE I WAS VOLUNTEERING TO GO, T'CHALLA.

AFTER ALL, I THOUGHT WE WERE CHARGING INTO BATTLE WITH STEPHEN STRANGE'S SECRET ARSENAL...

HONESTLY, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE.

AND ONE OTHER THING...THIS *"KING OF THE DEAD"* APPELLATION YOU'VE BEEN SPOUTING SINCE BEFORE OUR FIRST INCURSION...

...IT'S AMBIGUOUS, AND, FRANKLY...

...DON'T YOU THINK IT'S GETTING A BIT OLD?

NO. I DON'T.

BA-BOOM

OKAY...

EXACTLY *WHAT* IS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT WALL?

RRRR

SSSKIN'SSS ALL ITCHY...

IT'SSS BETTER WHEN YOU KNEEL.

LISTEN TO ME!

IT IS SAID THAT ONE WHO TRAVELS THROUGH A *SIEGE COURAGEOUS* IS GRANTED A NEW LIFE.

A *SECOND CHANCE.*

AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE SOMETHING *BETTER.* SOMETHING *MORE.*

COME WITH ME AND WE WILL TRAVEL THROUGH IT TO THE GREATEST BATTLE ANY WORLD HAS EVER SEEN.

TOGETHER WE WILL FACE A FALSE GOD AND STRIKE HIM DOWN.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY CALL WHAT IS WAITING FOR YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE?

GLORY AND HONOR.

UHHHH. HOLD ON A MINUTE...

I FEEL TOTALLY COMPELLED TO FOLLOW YOU, BUT, *UH,* MAYBE WE SSSHOULD TALK ABOUT THISSS...

I MEAN...WE HAVE IT PRETTY GOOD HERE.

YESSS. IT'S SSSURPRISSING. I FIND I QUITE LIKE MURDER AND EATING SSSOFT, SSSQUISSHY THINGSSS.

IT'S LIKE... LIKE PEANUT BUTTER AND BRAINSSS...

PUT THEM TOGETHER AND YOU JUST LOVE IT SSSO MUCH THA--

THUNK

WHY THE HESITATION, MONSTERS?

YOUR *KING* IS WAITING FOR AN ANSWER.

UHHH... GLORY AND HONOR?

GLORY AND HONOR!

GLORY AND HONOR!

GLORY AND HONOR!

NEXT...